

WITNESS: UAS industry ‘growing by leaps and bounds’

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declined to talk about the fire and referred all questions about the incident to Abling.

Abling said Ciraulo's referral was in line with the range's process manual, which requires one person be appointed a public information officer to avoid the spread of misinformation and speculation.

Ciraulo did comment on Fire Station No. 3, the facility at the airport that the fire department maintains but does not staff.

Per FAA rules, the department houses its aircraft rescue and firefighting truck and a foam-spraying rig from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal.

Although Ciraulo said the vehicles are capable of putting out fires for aircraft of any size, responding to an emergency at the airport is also about bringing in the right personnel.

Fire Station No. 3 is typically unstaffed, but Ciraulo said the two to four



Pilot Harold Nelson took this photo from his airplane after a UAS crashed near the Pendleton airport, burning a couple acres of a nearby wheat field (the black spot on the left side of the photo.)

Photo courtesy Harold Nelson

firefighters usually staffed at Fire Station No. 2 on Southgate are close enough to the airport to respond quickly.

Ciraulo said the department has sent staff to the airport fire station in anticipation of important UAS tests, such as the Project

Vahana air taxi's first test flight, but he estimates that has only happened a couple of times.

Despite being an eyewitness

to the dangerous crash, Nelson is supportive of the UAS industry.

"It's growing by leaps and bounds and we need to

embrace it," he said.

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SESSION: Democrats are poised to try for a broader revenue overhaul again

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The lower tax rates were initially engineered in 2013 during a special session as part of a package referred to as the "Grand Bargain."

"Sole proprietors were kept out of the 2013 special session bill as the Democrats did not want to lose anymore revenue by adding them into the state (pass-through entity) law," Boquist wrote. "Since I was in the room, I know this as fact. Now after raising taxes \$244 million this biennium, and placing the funds in the ending balance, they want to be able to campaign on 'tax cuts.'"

Boquist also says the Legislature could wait until the 2019 regular session to extend the lower rates to sole proprietorships. That would still allow those business owners to opt in to the rates for the 2018 tax year, Boquist says.

After efforts to make broader changes to the state's corporate tax system stalled last session, Democrats are poised to try for a broader revenue overhaul again in the 2019 session. Adding the sole proprietorship provision into the mix could complicate that agenda.

State Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, chairman

of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, said he supports the governor's efforts.

In fact, the provision was initially a component of SB 1528, Hass said.

"It didn't seem to move them (Republicans)," Hass said Monday. "They just wanted to connect to the federal tax bill and didn't care what other things we did."

But Hass said that the top priority was to disconnect from the federal pass-through deduction, which was part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law by the President in December.

"(Senate President) Peter Courtney and I decided, let's just get the clean bill through and not try to save the world," Hass said.

Boquist maintains relatively few sole proprietorships would benefit from the proposed change.

The Legislative Revenue Office is working to figure out just how many Oregon taxpayers could be affected by that tweak to the state tax code.

Early estimates suggest there are about 250,000 sole proprietorships in Oregon, said Legislative Revenue Officer Chris Allanach.

It's not clear how many meet the qualifications for the lower tax rates, though,

Allanach said.

In order to qualify an owner or partner of a pass-through business has to make "active" income, such as tangible sales, rather than "passive" income such as rental property, and employ at least one non-owner person who works 1,200 hours a year.

Jim Moore, director of

the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation, noted that the budget doesn't require the immediate attention of a special session, which have been called in the past when the state has faced recessions or severe dips in revenues.

"This is not a special session that is really required because of the

budget," Moore said. "This is clearly a special session that is more for political reasons."

The Governor's Office did not comment on the contention that the special session was a campaign or politically-oriented move.

The state's constitution doesn't allow the governor to limit the topic of a special

session.

Historically, successful special sessions have stayed in their lane, and also benefit from plenty of advance planning, Moore said.

"Absolutely, they can do more than one topic," Moore said. "So it's up to the leadership of the Legislature to make sure they stay on track."



The 2018 Oregon Legislative Assembly at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

MUSEUM: 'There's so much people have never seen'

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Old military uniforms on wire hangers now are in shadow boxes on a wall, they arranged displays to allow for more walking room, and they dedicated one room to the development of McNary Dam.

Simmons and Nobles said plans are afoot to show the Chinese and Latino influence on the community, as well as tell the story of the 1916 city election, when voters elected all women into the offices of mayor, treasurer, recorder and every seat on the council.

Larry Carrick and Chris Crabtree of Hermiston checked out the museum, which used to be home to

Umatilla's city hall, police department and more. They praised the cleaner appearance and the effort to tell the local history. Carrick, a retired barber, said all three of his children graduated high school in Umatilla.

"We need a museum here," he said. "There's so much people have never seen."

The museum drew about 200 people last year. Admission is free. Simmons said the foundation is working on updating promotional materials to draw more visitors and volunteers.

Robertson looked around a bit more before he headed out. The place, he said, has a much better look now.

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